

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/GB2006/000525

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. B63B23/32 B63C3/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
B63B B63C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 286 346 A (WIEK ET AL) 1 September 1981 (1981-09-01)	1-12, 15-20, 23-25, 28, 44-46
Y	the whole document	13, 14, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29-40
X	EP 0 255 191 A (CONOCO INC) 3 February 1988 (1988-02-03)	1-3, 41-43
Y	the whole document	13, 14, 29, 30
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 May 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

19/05/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2006/000525

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 95/14605 A (LIFERAFT SYSTEMS AUSTRALIA PTY. LIMITED; LOGAN, IAIN) 1 June 1995 (1995-06-01)	1-3
Y	the whole document	21, 22, 26, 27, 31-36
X	----- GB 2 086 313 A (HAUGE ALF) 12 May 1982 (1982-05-12) the whole document	1-3, 46
Y	----- NL 1 019 706 C2 (HOOCH WATERSPORT V.O.F) 9 July 2003 (2003-07-09) page 6, line 3 - line 12; figure 1 -----	37-40

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2006/000525

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4286346	A	01-09-1981	AU 531736 B2	01-09-1983
			AU 5533880 A	02-10-1980
			BE 879754 A2	15-02-1980
			CA 1164417 A1	27-03-1984
			DE 2948209 A1	09-10-1980
			DK 132680 A	29-09-1980
			ES 8100981 A1	01-03-1981
			FI 800988 A	29-09-1980
			FR 2452420 A1	24-10-1980
			GB 2046181 A	12-11-1980
			IT 1131051 B	18-06-1986
			JP 55164535 A	22-12-1980
			NL 7902412 A	30-09-1980
			SE 8002397 A	29-09-1980
EP 0255191	A	03-02-1988	CA 1282559 C	09-04-1991
			DE 3765208 D1	31-10-1990
			DK 32787 A	29-01-1988
			JP 63038093 A	18-02-1988
			NO 870276 A	29-01-1988
			US 4660677 A	28-04-1987
WO 9514605	A	01-06-1995	NONE	
GB 2086313	A	12-05-1982	JP 57099490 A	21-06-1982
			NO 803283 A	04-05-1982
NL 1019706	C2	09-07-2003	NONE	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing

(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2006/000525

International filing date (day/month/year)
15.02.2006

Priority date (day/month/year)
15.02.2005

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. B63B23/32 B63C3/12

Applicant
THE ENGINEERING BUSINESS LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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Date of completion of
this opinion

See form
PCT/ISA/210

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2006/000525

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material:

- ☐ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material:

- ☐ on paper
- ☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing:

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2006/000525

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	13,14,21,22,26,27,29-40
	No: Claims	1-12,15-20,23-25,28,41-46
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-46
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-46
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

- 1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 : US 4 286 346 A (WIEK ET AL) 1 September 1981 (1981-09-01)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

- 2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

An apparatus for transfer of an entity to or from the water, comprising a support surface (6) along which the entity being launched or recovered is operatively moveable, at least one buoyant component (11) operative to render the apparatus buoyant in water (Fig. 1) and mounting means (5) disposed at a first end of the apparatus, for pivotally mounting the apparatus on a fixed structure,

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-46

Dependent claims 2-46 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).